

E. COLI O157 OUTBREAK MAY BE LINKED TO WESTERN STOCK SHOW



Handwashing can reduce the risk of E. coli O157, but signs and sinks do not make people wash their hands. Be diligent in promoting the importance of handwashing with patrons and staff.

27 illnesses, mainly in children who attended livestock show and petting zoo

An outbreak of E. coli O157 has affected close to 30 individuals in the Denver, CO area. According to Denver Health, new cases are emerging with seven new cases added to the outbreak last week.

Results of the investigation to pinpoint the source of the outbreak have not yet been released. Health officials say that the working hypothesis is that the

E. coli O157 may be linked to the Western Stock Show as 16 infected children attended the annual event. The Western Stock Show, which was held in January, includes livestock exhibits and petting zoos.

Several of the sick children go to day care and at least two of the cases appear to have happened after ill children came into contact

with other sick children, according to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Past petting zoo and livestock outbreaks have been linked to sawdust and animal poop spread around facilities. Over 20 E.coli O157 outbreaks have been linked to petting zoos since 1990.



RISKS AT PETTING ZOOS AND LIVESTOCK SHOWS

- VISITORS EATING AROUND ANIMALS
- LACK OF HANDWASHING
- CHILDREN TAKING ITEMS LIKE BOTTLES, PACIFIERS AND CUPS INTO ANIMAL AREAS
- LAX CLEANING AND SANITIZING